

Risk Assessment/Risk Management Workgroup
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Brad Bradley, Region 5
Mark Maddaloni, Region 2

Issue 1: 1% should not be considered a standard. It is not health based and it may not be protective.

Need: Health-based standard for ambient and indoor environment.

Immediate Products:

- Communication tool (e.g., fact sheet) to consistently communicate this message. *(Brad will draft for review. Monica would like to review.)*
- Risk-based action levels for making cleanup decisions that considers:
 - short term acute incidents, removals, and long-term remedial actions;
 - Soil, air, and dust (looking at solid and porous surfaces);
 - Recognizes limitations;
 - Addresses all sites where asbestos is a COPC; and
 - Establishes a process for updating the standard as science changes.*(Brad and Raj would like to be involved.)*

Long-Term Products (but need to start now):

- Method/protocol leading to the development of exposure assessment models for soil, air, and dust:
 - soil screening values driven by characteristics of the soil and various activity scenarios; and
 - validated model for calculating the ration of asbestos to PM10.

Issue 2: Background asbestos levels.

Need: Process/procedures for determining background to assist in making site-specific decisions.

Immediate Products:

- Compile existing publications on background levels (e.g., 1986 data, ATSDR profile), categorize it, and look for gaps. *(Chuck will compile.)*
- Gather background levels from “asbestos sites” *(Chuck will compile.)*
- Create a repository for all the background data.
- Develop SOPs for determining site-specific background, including monitoring methods, sensitivity. Consider:
 - air, soil, in-door dust;
 - environment (e.g., rural, urban);
 - asbestos type; and
 - all sites where asbestos is a COPC .

(Need assistance from sampling workgroup. Fran would like to be involved.)

Longer-Term Products (use data from above)

- Matrix on background by type of environment, media, asbestos type, etc that can be used as an initial screening tool for determining whether you have levels above background.

Issue 3: Don't have high dose/short term acute exposure risk numbers.

Need: High dose/short term acute exposure risk numbers.

Immediate Products

- Acute exposure guidelines

Long-Term Products

- Methods for calculating acute exposure cancer risk number
- Non-cancer endpoint
(Punt to ORD)

Issue 4: How clean is clean?

Need: Exit strategy for different sources of asbestos.

Immediate Products/Actions

- Create working group that includes Regions 2, 5, 8, and 9 to consistently document actions taken, decisions made, and why those decisions were made. *(Working group will develop the next product and help with the schematic/conceptual model. Chuck and Brad would like to participate.)*
- Guidance/policy for walking away with procedures for validation at the site.
 - Need to address the .0005/.0009 values, AHERA;
 - Air concentration based on standard air model; and
 - Need to consider all sites where asbestos is a COPC..

Long-Term Product (but start now)

- Create, and keep up-to-date, a repository of information on sites with asbestos (not just "asbestos sites" but all sites where asbestos is a COPC..)

Issue 5: Need a consistent/effective remediation strategy.

Immediate Products

- List of best practices for addressing asbestos at sites and situations for use. *(Brad will update the lead strategy for asbestos.)*

Issue 6: Need activity-driven scenarios for risk assessments to support risk management decision making.

Immediate Products/Actions

- Gather exposure scenarios/protocols currently used at asbestos sites. *(Libby will gather)*
- Guidance on how to set up air-based exposure scenarios that considers:
 - site type (e.g., commercial, industrial, residential);
 - alternate dose/response models;
 - all sites with asbestos as a COPC;
 - AHERA; and
 - current exposure assessment guidance format.

Issue 6: Need schematic/conceptual model for risk assessment and risk management to help

management and the community understand issues problems, risk, standards, actions, etc.

Immediate Product

- Conceptual model that addresses “asbestos sites”, sites where asbestos is the COPC, and products that may contain asbestos (*Workgroup made up of representatives from Regions 2, 5, 8, and 9 will develop. Use Phil Cook’s model as a starting point.*)

Issue 7: AHERA is not health-based and may not be applicable at all sites.

Immediate Products

- Guidelines for the portions of AHERA that are applicable to Superfund sites and when those sections should be used.
- Communication tool for when/why AHERA is /is not used. (*May be combined with the 1% fact sheet.*)

Other Considerations/Concerns

- Consistency and reproducibility in sampling and analytical methods are needed for making risk management decisions. (*Other workgroups need to consider this need when developing their SOPs.*)
- Fully support and would like to accelerate the timeframe for updating IRIS. (*Consider putting this on the agenda for management meeting after some of the products discussed above are developed.*)
- Need inter-agency buy-in, support, and cooperation in the risk decision-making. (*Ask Lee to put this on the Asbestos Coordinating Team agenda.*)
- Need a strategy for involving the States in the development of these documents, including sharing their data and protocols. (*Monica would like to participate.*)
- Need to be sensitive to how Superfund’s activities (coming out of this meeting) fit into the Agency’s Asbestos Action Plan.